

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Charles Yang on 3/24/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel claim 10, 19 and 20.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: While Matsumoto et al (US 2001/0045979) teaches an enhanced display, one of the image display techniques, a closer object may be re-positioned even closer, while a distant object may be made even more distant, so that the contrast in depth is emphasized between the objects. Matsumoto clearly teaches the image processing, wherein the images are partially changed its scale based on depth information. FIG. 31 shows the same viewfinder image as FIG. 29, except that a part of it is magnified. As a result of the person being expanded, the person having the shortest depth among all objects in the drawing, the person is perceived as being much closer to the viewer. As a result, an effective enhanced display is achieved. In this case, preferably, a masking relationship is also reflected in the newly created viewfinder image. Takemoto et al (US 7,403,201) teaches a transmitting-side device (1) generates an image data by performing an image analysis toward the actually

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photographed two-dimensional image (100) and also generates depth information useful for converting the two-dimensional image into a stereoscopic vision-use image. Furthermore, the transmitting-side device generates additional subordinate information such as scale information, function specifying information, table specifying information, and the like, and transmits such the information to a receiving-side device (2). The receiving-side device (2) receives the image data, the depth information, and the additional subordinate information, generates a parallax image on the basis of such the information, and allows an observer to perform stereoscopic vision. None teaches combining the or each first and second part of said display image pairs to form said display image pair, said display image pair being adapted to provide a stereoscopic image of said first and second regions of said scene; wherein an object having a predetermined depth in a viewing direction in a said first region has a first perceived depth and an object having said predetermined depth in a viewing direction in a said second region has a second perceived depth, different from said first perceived depth, when said stereoscopic image is viewed in stereo. Therefore, each stereoscopic image pair corresponding to a different region of the scene to different locations and to a different perceived depth from the other stereoscopic image pair helps in creating high quality images of three dimensional scenes with significant scene depth, that is with objects in the close foreground and distant background, thus causing the viewer to be able to view the scene as a whole. The Examiner finds no reason or motivation to combine the above references in an obviousness rejection thus placing the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-8; 11-16 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NANCY BITAR whose telephone number is (571)270-1041. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (7:30a.m. to 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vikkram Bali can be reached on 571-272-7415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nancy Bitar/
Examiner, Art Unit 2624

/Vikkram Bali/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2624